IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-6, 8, and 11-17 as follows. Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 18-36 as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of deactivating a service account associated with an application server of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a)   ~~monitoring~~ a status of a service account;

b)forwarding a request for de-registration <u>from said application server via a direct interface</u> to a registration server, which maintains a registration status of said subscriber, upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required; and

c)changing the registration status of said subscriber so as to de-register said subscriber at said registration server in response to said de-registration request.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said forwarding step comprises forwarding said ~~de-registration or barring~~ request over ~~an~~ <u>said</u> interface directly coupling said application server and said registration server.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said forwarding ~~step~~ comprises forwarding said request to said registration server comprising a home subscriber server of an internet protocol multimedia subsystem.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein said forwarding ~~step~~ comprises forwarding said request over said interface comprising an Sh reference point.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein said forwarding ~~step~~ comprises forwarding said request in a profile update request command.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, further comprising ~~the step of~~ indicating de-registration by setting an updated registration status to a predetermined value.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Currently Amended) A system for deactivating a service account of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, said system comprising:

    ~~a)~~a registration server <u>configured</u> to maintain a registration status of said subscriber; and

    ~~b)~~an application server, to which said service account is associated, <u>configured</u> to monitor a status of said service account and to forward <u>via a direct interface</u> a request for

de-registration to said registration server, upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required,

wherein said registration server is configured to change the registration status of said subscriber so as to de-register said subscriber in response to said de-registration request.

9.   (Original) A system according to 8, wherein said registration server is a home subscriber server.

10.   (Original) A system according to 8, wherein said signaling network comprises an internet protocol multimedia subsystem.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of deactivating a service account associated with an application server of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, the method comprising the steps of:

a)   monitoring a status of said service account;

b)   forwarding a request for barring from said application server via a direct interface to a registration server, which maintains a registration status of said subscriber, upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required; and

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e)⎯⎯changing a barring indication of said subscriber so as to bar said subscriber at said registration server by changing ~~the~~ said barring indication in response to said barring request.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein said forwarding ~~step~~ comprises forwarding said ~~requests~~ request to said registration server comprising a home subscriber server of an internet protocol multimedia subsystem.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein said forwarding ~~step~~ comprises forwarding said requests in a profile update request command.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, further comprising ~~the step of~~ indicating barring by adding the barring indication to a definition of a public identity.

15.   (Currently Amended) A system for deactivating a service account of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, said system comprising:

a)⎯⎯a registration server configured to maintain a registration status of said subscriber; and

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b)———an application server, to which said service account is associated, configured to monitor a status of said service account and to forward via a direct interface a request for barring to said registration server, upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required,

wherein said registration server is configured to change the a barring indication of said subscriber to bar said subscriber in response to said barring request.

16.   (Currently Amended) A system for deactivating a service account associated with an application server of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, the system comprising:

a)———monitoring means for monitoring a status of said service account;

b)———forwarding means for forwarding a request for de-registration from said application server via a direct interface to a registration server, which maintains a registration status of said subscriber, upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required; and

c)———changing means for changing the registration status of said subscriber so as to deregister said subscriber at said registration server in response to de-registration request.

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17.   (Currently Amended) A system for deactivating a service account associated with an application server of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, the system comprising:

a)——monitoring means for monitoring a status of said service account;

b)——forwarding means for forwarding a request for barring from said application server via a direct interface to a registration server, which maintains a registration status of said subscriber, upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required; and

c)——changing means for changing a barring indication of said subscriber so as to bar said subscriber at said registration server by changing the said barring indication in response to said barring request.

18.   (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein said forwarding comprises forwarding said request over said interface directly coupling said application server and said registration server.

19.   (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein said forwarding comprises forwarding said request over said interface comprising an Sh reference point.

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20. (New) A method of deactivating a service account associated with an application server of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, the method comprising:

monitoring a status of a service account; and

forwarding a request for de-registration from said application server via a direct interface to a registration server upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required,

wherein the registration server maintains a registration status of said subscriber, and

wherein the registration server changes said registration status of said subscriber so as to de-register said subscriber at said registration server in response to said de-registration request.

21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein said forwarding comprises forwarding said request over said interface directly coupling said application server and said registration server.

22. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein said forwarding comprises forwarding said request to said registration server comprising a home subscriber server of an internet protocol multimedia subsystem.

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23.   (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein said forwarding comprises forwarding said request over said interface comprising an Sh reference point.

24.   (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein said forwarding comprises forwarding said request in a profile update request command.

25.   (New) A method of deactivating a service account associated with an application server of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, the method comprising:

receiving from said application server via a direct interface a request for de-registration at a registration server, which maintains a registration status of said subscriber; and

changing the registration status of said subscriber so as to de-register said subscriber at said registration server in response to said de-registration request.

26.   (New) A method according to claim 25, further comprising indicating de-registration by setting an updated registration status to a predetermined value.

27.   (New) A method of deactivating a service account associated with an application server of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, the method comprising:

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monitoring a status of said service account; and

forwarding a request for barring from said application server via a direct interface to a registration server upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required,

wherein the registration server maintains a registration status of said subscriber,

and wherein the registration server changes a barring indication of said subscriber so as to bar said subscriber at said registration server by changing said barring indication in response to said barring request.

28. (New) A method according to claim 27, wherein said forwarding comprises forwarding said request to said registration server comprising a home subscriber server of an internet protocol multimedia subsystem.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein said forwarding comprises forwarding said request in a profile update request command.

30. (New) A method of deactivating a service account associated with an application server of a registered subscriber within a signaling network supporting internet protocol based services, the method comprising:

receiving from said application server via a direct interface a request for barring to a registration server, which maintains a registration status of said subscriber; and

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changing a barring indication of said subscriber so as to bar said subscriber at said registration server by changing said barring indication in response to said barring request.

31.   (New) A method according to claim 30, further comprising indicating barring by adding the barring indication to a definition of a public identity.

32.   (New) A registration server for deactivating a service account of a registered subscriber, said registration server comprising:

a storage configured to maintain a registration status of said subscriber; and

an updating unit configured to change the registration status of said subscriber so as to de-register said subscriber in response to a de-registration request forwarded from an application server via a direct interface to said registration server.

33.   (New) The registration server according to claim 32, wherein said registration server is a home subscriber server.

34.   (New) A registration server for deactivating a service account of a registered subscriber, said registration server comprising:

means for maintaining a registration status of said subscriber; and

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means for changing the registration status of said subscriber so as to de-register said subscriber in response to a de-registration request forwarded from an application server via a direct interface to said registration server.

35.   (New) An application server for deactivating a service account of a registered subscriber, said application server comprising:

a forwarding unit configured to forward a request for de-registration from said application server via a direct interface to a registration server, upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required.

36.   (New) An application server for deactivating a service account of a registered subscriber, said application server comprising:

means for monitoring a status of said service account; and

means for forwarding a request for de-registration from said application server via a direct interface to a registration server, upon determining that disruption or termination of service is required.

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